

Supervisors Rap MTA on Monorail

Transit Confusion Blamed on Action of Bus Authority

BY RAY HEBERT

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County supervisors, dismayed and angry, conceded Tuesday that efforts to develop a rapid transit system here have reached a confused impasse.

Because of this they urged a moratorium on any further transit meetings, including a proposed "summit" conference, until the Assembly Transportation and Commerce Committee launches its scheduled inquiry later this month.

In a straight-faced understatement of the situation, Warren M. Dorn, supervisors chairman, declared:

"Somewhere along the line someone is confused."

Financing Problem

Much of the confusion seemed to stem from differences between the Metropolitan Transit Authority and Alweg Rapid Transit System and Goodell Monorail Systems, Inc., over whether monorail systems proposed by the two firms could be privately financed.

The MTA has insisted some form of tax help will be needed to build any rapid transit system here.

On Sunday, it also formally notified the firms that their offers to build overhead networks, assertedly at no cost to the taxpayers, are unacceptable because of community objections.

Deb's Reaction

"I was dismayed by the MTA's action," said Supervisor Ernest E. Debs. "I do not see any reason for the haste. When A. J. Eyraud, MTA chairman, appeared before us two weeks ago, he urged a meeting of interested parties.

"Pending that meeting, I hoped that no hasty action would be taken . . . This type of public relations by the MTA is not conducive to building a rapid transit system here."

Supervisor Frank G. Bonelli called the MTA's notification to Alweg and Goodell an action "that will trigger the authority's reorganization."

"It was a flagrant disregard of this board's request and will bring about a change in the MTA—unless

Please Turn to Pg. 8, Col. 1

MONORAIL DISPUTE

Continued from First Page

It has a change of heart." he said.

Acting on Bonelli's motion, the supervisors urged the MTA to rescind rejection of the Alweg and Goodell proposals pending the Assembly committee hearing Oct. 28.

Dorn acknowledged the importance of a proposed "summit" meeting, bringing together Gov. Brown, Mayor Samuel W. Yorty, State Sen. Thomas M. Rees (D-Los Angeles) and others to clarify the situation.

But he said it should be held in abeyance until after the Assembly committee, headed by Assemblyman Tom Carrell (D-San Fernando), meets.

The supervisors also asked the County Counsel's office for an opinion to determine whether the Alweg and

Goodell proposals constitute offers of private financing.

Asst. County Counsel John D. Maharg told the board, pending the preparation of a formal opinion, that it was his understanding offers involved issuance of "true" revenue bonds. In this case, he said, there would be no recourse to the "general taxing power."

The MTA has said the firms were not actually offering private financing. The revenues of the authority's system would be pledged and "the credit of the community (would be) at stake," an MTA official explained.